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Steve Spurrier on Ingle, MBA and College Football

by Steven Syverud and Thompson Paine

When we talked to Florida football coach Steve Spurrier he seemed at first to be very different than the man we were used to seeing stalking the sidelines on Saturday afternoons. He seemed very mellow and made none of the controversial comments we were expecting. We even learned that he had seven grandkids. But behind his outward cool we could sense his hyper competitiveness. We could tell he was proud of his school, his football program, and even his golf game. Here is an shortened version of what he said to us:

BR: Like you, Ingle is going to high school in Tennessee, stars in basketball as well as football and is considered easily the best quarterback in the state. Does he remind you of yourself when you first arrived in Florida in 1963?

SS: Some people say that, I don't like to try and relate myself to any recruit, to any player that we have, but certainly Ingle is the first quarterback that we've

signed that can run as well as he does and also punt and place kick. So, I did certainly think that he's got the talent to be an excellent passer also.



Steven Syverud and Thompson Paine pose here for a picture with the University of Florida head football coach Steve Spurrier. Coach Spurrier was this year's featured speaker at the MBA Father Son banquet.

a little bit of that. I think Ingle place kicks a lot better than I ever could and runs a lot better also. Now, we've got to sort of refine his passing, but I

BR: For the last year and a half, there has been this talk upon talk about where Ingle is going to go. He was getting recruited by a lot of schools, a

lot of great programs. What do you think was the most attractive thing about the University of Florida football program that brought him there?

SS: I think Ingle... sort of always wanted to go to Florida between the last two or three years. I think maybe his sophomore year he sort of had a goal or a mission to get a scholarship and—earn a scholarship to go to Florida....So, I think what really started it is that he had very strong interests and once we learned that, then we followed up. But I just think playing on a team that's very capable of winning championships which we have proven over the last 10 or 11 years and opportunity to play in our system is something that he really looks forward to.

BR: We've got a lot of Tennessee fans at this school and a lot of Vanderbilt fans. What do you say to motivate your players before a big game like Tennessee or like Florida State and then again, what do you say to your team before they play a team like Vanderbilt,

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Lannie Davis Visits and Speaks at MBA

by Michael Pass

This February, MBA was fortunate enough to have Lannie Davis, a lawyer and former Special Consul to Bill Clinton during his presidency, visit campus and speak at assembly. Mr. Davis' controversial speech, which focused on his job under the Clinton administration, fascinated some and angered others. The issue sparking the controversy was Mr. Davis' explanation and analysis of his responsibility of "spinning" bad publicity that came Clinton's way. Critics of Mr. Davis on campus have suggested, even in front of the entire school at an assembly a few weeks later, that Mr. Davis' speech promoted and encouraged lying and shifting the blame. His supporters maintain that Davis was simply illustrating the delicate and subtle techniques politicians must use in order to survive. Many would argue that his message was not promoting deceit, but instead promoting a proper examination

of all the facts by the media and the public in order to facilitate a fair judgement of the issues.

In an interview with the Bell Ringer Mr. Davis further reflected upon his education and his career. After finishing his undergraduate work at Yale University, Lannie next went to Yale

Law school where he was both a classmate of and close friends with

Hillary and Bill Clinton. Having long been interested in politics thanks to the

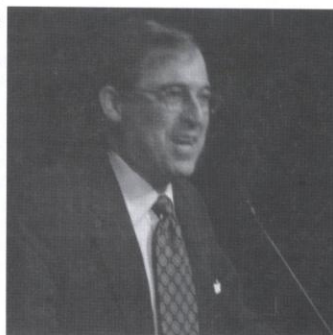
influence of John F. Kennedy, Davis saw his law degree as a good platform for entering public life. He soon became a Democratic candidate for Congress and later served on the Democratic National Committee. As an undergraduate at Yale, Davis

had been the Editor of the Yale newspaper and he continued to work

in the media after college.

When Bill Clinton was elected to his second term, he decided that he needed a Special Consul to be both his lawyer and press secretary. Lannie, a close friend of the Clinton's with valuable political and media experience, seemed to be the obvious choice for the job. After beginning work, Lannie soon realized that his task was quite arduous: "I was a walking conflict of interest. I was a lawyer trying to protect my client [Clinton], but I was also a press secretary answering questions for the

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Davis, former Special Consul to President Clinton, explains "mitigating circumstances"

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Lannie Davis Speaks (from page 1)

media. A lawyer is trained to hold information back to protect his client. A press secretary is trained to answer every question and help the press write stories." The ambiguous and conflicting nature of Davis' job only became more complex as Clinton's second term moved forward.

As the scandals began to pile up, Lannie had to come up with new

ways of protecting his client as well as satisfying the media. During a Senate Hearing investigating Clinton, the committee subpoenaed thousands of White House documents. Mr. Davis warned to know exactly what he was giving the committee, so he frantically went through the documents in the middle of the night. Soon Lannie came across a memo that implicitly implied

that large donors to the Clinton Campaign were to be invited to spend the night in the Lincoln bedroom. The memo suggested that donating to the Clinton campaign was in fact a purchase of the Lincoln bedroom for one night.

After doing some quick research, Lannie discovered that the Bush administration had also invited big campaign donors to spend the night in the Lincoln Bedroom. In fact, President Bush had invited even more donors than Clinton. Although the practice of having wealthy donors to the White House apparently was standard, Lannie knew that the Republican Senators might not agree and the public would be given a false

perception that Clinton was acting in a scandalous manner.

Davis immediately formulated a plan. He decided to call a non-partisan reporter whom he knew and trusted. In exchange for giving the reporter this exclusive story, Davis made him promise to present all of the facts fairly and objectively. The reporter kept his end of the bargain and the issue blew over.

Davis had successfully "spun" a story that could have potentially harmed Clinton's reputation. In Washington DC, politicians and their employees must draw a fine line between lying and spinning. It is acceptable to spin and a major faux pas to lie.

-News Briefs-

Students and Faculty Win Trips to go Abroad This Summer

Thirteen MBA students and faculty will be enlarging their horizons as they work and study over seas this summer. Juniors Michael Piss and Nick Reid will attend Winchester College in June; Walker Duncan will study at Eton College in June; and Charles Anderson and Steven Syverson will study at Michaelhouse in South Africa in July and August. Mrs. IO'Connell will also go to Winchester this summer; Mr. Whitfield will be at Michaelhouse; and Mr. Pratt will travel to Southport School in Australia. Winchester, Eton, Michaelhouse and Southport are all part of MBA's expanding foreign exchange program.

MBA students also received scholarships from The Experiment in International Living Program. Tipton Horn and Wade Sharpson won a scholarship to be in the France New Frontiers Program and Fannie Biking Program. David Boyd also won a scholarship in the Chile South Program. Gray Skinner was also selected by the International YMCA to work at a summer camp in Dornold, Germany.

Last but not least, Mr. Gaither received a grant from MBA to study since returning to Latin history in Rome, Florence and Pompeii.

Congratulations to the Spring Totomoi Inductees

Congratulations to the most recent inductees into MBA's honorary fraternity, Totomoi. Totomoi recognizes those students who have shown excellence in the areas of academics, athletics, and service to the school and in the community. Induction into Totomoi is considered the highest honor for juniors and seniors at MBA. This spring's inductees included from the Class of 2002: Charles Anderson, Ryan Mirian, Michael Piss, and Nick Reid; from the Class of 2001: Janney Dickson, Miller Harris, Matthew McIntosh, and Jeff Sweeney; from the Faculty: Mrs. Anne Christensen.

Congratulations to the New Cum Laude Inductees

In a special program on February 21, 15 students and one faculty member were inducted into the Montgomery Bell Chapter of the Cum Laude Society. Seniors Jamie Atkinson, Luke Brown, Will Bruce, Patrick Gibbs, Miller Harris, Matthew McIntosh, Michael Osburn, and Elliot Pinley; Juniors Tyler Ammosch, Tipton Horn, Tate Jackson, Cooper Moore, Jonathan Norton, Nick Reid, and Steven Syverson; Faculty Dr. Cal Fuller.

Thirteen Students Named National Merit Finalists

Congratulations to: Jettie Atkinson, Chris Bateman, Jesse Ball, Drew Conrad, Janney Dickson, Adam Diehl, Ryan Holt, Scott Lewis, Thompson Paine, Paul Pope, Stephen Smith, Jeff Sweeney, and Seniors Valerius, who were all named National Merit Finalists.

Mock Trial Outdone by Harpeth Hall- Again

by Josh Mayhew

Have you ever sat down on a Sunday night to watch *The Practice*? What about *Law and Order*? You know - all those law shows...

Though a select few of us may have unfortunately been involved in a trial at some point in our lives, the majority of people don't even know how a court room really works. Within a matter of weeks, I knew it perfectly. No, I didn't get convicted for murder. I decided to join the Mock Trial Team.

Mock Trial, in short, is exactly what it sounds like. A case has been made up, and is used by all the teams in the country. This year, the case was about a fraternity hazing incident. On pledge night, a freshman college student hoping to get into the fraternity slipped while on a wooden plank, and plummeted to his death, smashing his head on the back of the walkboard, instantly killing him. Keep in mind that this case is completely fictional.

Like any other trial, mock trial has a prosecution and defense side, each with it's own lawyers and witnesses. This was our team this year: For the prosecution - The lawyers were seniors Sameer Valerius and Jonathan Mirian, and sophomore Timothy Vaughn. Witnesses for the prosecution were played by Jay Howell, Harry Kintz, and myself. As for the defense? The lawyers were sophomores Andrew Quinn, and Matt Conrad, and senior Sameer Valerius.

The defense witnesses were freshmen Neal Idmark and Jonathan Dorrer (who later won an award for his portrayal of a Brooklyn neighborhood). The third witness was also the

defendant, the guy accused of pushing the freshman off the wooden plank to his death. He was played by sophomore J.B. Spaulding. Hey, I can see it.

After about 3 weeks of practicing our parts with our attorney coaches Wade Cowan, Kristin Anderson, and Rebecca DeMone, we were pretty prepared as far as I'm concerned.

Over 2 days this past February, the city competition was held at the county courthouse downtown.

I hate to say it, but our biggest hurdle was going to be Harpeth Hall. Out of the first total rounds, we went up against Hillwood Highschool (cough Brandon Valentine cough), DCA, and Harpeth Hall, all of which we beat. Then, we had 2 rounds of Harpeth Hall Honeybear Hall. Our team and their team were neck and neck as far as being prepared and knowing the material.

During the entire 2 hour duration of the trial, everyone's heart was in their throat, fearing that they would make a mistake...a mistake that could cost them the trial, and to lose to Harpeth Hall. And wouldn't that be embarrassing?

Well, it really doesn't matter who came in first, or even second for that matter. It's the experience that counts, right?

Anyways, you can ask anyone who did it, and they'll tell you the same thing. It was one of the most fun things you can do at MBA. With a little bit of effort, this is something really worthwhile that anyone is welcome to try. Needless to say, it also looks good on college transcripts.

Palestinians Deserve Equality At Least

by Paul Pope

I traveled to UC-Berkeley recently to see the campus since I was admitted and wanted to discover if I could live and learn at a large public university like Berkeley. Unfortunately, I decided it was not the right school for me, but while I was there something happened that brought a submerged facet of my identity to the surface. I met a Lebanese graduate student in the lively central plaza of the campus who had set up a booth with pamphlets and signs in order to raise awareness about the oppression of the Palestinian people. I felt a historical kinship with this kind fellow who I spoke with because my mother too was an immigrant from Lebanon, and the encounter rekindled an intense curiosity in the Middle East that I have always held somewhere on my list of things to find out later in life. I had always talked with my mother about what happened to her country, but I never really attempted to find out for myself.

Finally, I decided I had procrastinated long enough, and I began reading about the current situation. At the same time, I told some of my friends from the debate community about my experience at Berkeley. The response of a particular friend who lives in California troubled me greatly. He said: "I just couldn't go to Berkeley because I honestly think even though Israel has done some really bad things that at its core, Israel is correct, and at Berkeley I might be harassed (not debated mind you, just harassed) for this belief or some others that I have. I have never had a problem with open discussion (and being wrong) its the ganging up on people of a minority belief and making fun of them, and treating them as less because they have an intellectual disagreement that gets me."

I found this broad generalization about Israel particularly disturbing, and I felt I needed to speak out about American perceptions of the Middle East. I began formulating my nebulous thoughts into concepts, and eventually wrote an email which I sent to people I knew around the country in the hope that they might reconsider their current outlook on Israel. So without any more of my procrastination, here is the (abridged) email I sent out which I would like to share with this school:

First, I would like to say that I don't know how the Berkeley community specifically reacted to the violence in the Middle East. Nevertheless, it seems to me that the position that Israel is "incorrect" is marginalized to a degree greater than

that of almost any other minority position in America, regardless of what campus we're talking about. In fact, the "End Israeli Apartheid" stand had no visitors except for me and my dad, and when we talked with the Lebanese grad student about his campus protest, he practically admitted it had no chance of success (but he might as well try). His plan was to divest all UC-Berkeley funds that were invested in Israeli (directly or indirectly) as a symbol of protest against Israel's actions (violation of the peace agreements, violation of UN human rights agreements, violation of Palestinian sovereignty, and so on), just as the campus had done with South Africa. It is easy to see why the official protest against Israel will not succeed. The beliefs of those who cling to a Jewish racial identity in America are far more

race such as Palestinians. Instead, "Jewish" as religion often becomes conflated with "Jewish" as race, and together they provide the moral support for marginalizing the Palestinian cause - Israel has become both a theocracy and a racial state. I can provide plenty of examples if you want of the difference between Jewish as race, ideology, and religion (for example, an article I found on why people who are Orthodox "Jews" by religion oppose Israel's recent actions, or perhaps the writings of Noam Chomsky).

Third, the use of small-scale violence (compared to the United States and Israel) by Hezbollah, Arafat (indirectly or whatever), and by Palestinians is a constant detriment to their cause because it deters people from even entertaining their

conflict than any supposed "Zionist influence" or "Jewish control of the media." It's a simple ideology: Israel is seen as a state with carefully defined borders and a happy, peaceful population; Arabs are perceived as ruthless, unpredictable, fanatical terrorists, and Palestinians are viewed as a pesky minority that is harassing this wonderful nation and threatening its serenity; a "predictable," military response is, of course, necessary as a means of self-defense. There's only one problem: military force IS terrorism. The label of terrorism is a way to discount the cause of those who do not yet have a state or land or even a place to live like the Israelis do. There's no difference between what the Israeli Defense Forces do and what little Palestinian kids throwing rocks do: they are both forms of violence, but Israeli violence is legitimated because it is in the name of a country, "Israel," which is nothing more than an arbitrary and political social construction like almost everything else than can be "possessed."

This discourse of statehood is so entrenched in American culture that it doesn't even need reinforcement; we in America are so used to the concept of a government with legitimate military functions. Perhaps the only way out of this eternal dilemma is for people to forsake the concept of "possession" and "self-determination" and to learn to coexist peacefully. Perhaps it is even inevitable that Israel will be the dominant force in the region, and perhaps Palestinians will have to learn to live with Israeli control in some instances, but they must never learn to live with economic, legal, and social inequality as currently exists in Israel.

In conclusion, let me just remind you that the "ganging up on people of a minority belief and making fun of them, and treating them as less" is what happens to the Palestinian cause for equality many times because Jewish convictions are already part of the dominant ideology. Hopefully, this article will force someone to rethink Israel and perhaps to support the struggle for racial equality in the Middle East

I will end with a quote: "The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is not just an issue of military occupation and Israel is not a country that was established 'normally' and happened to occupy another country in 1967. Palestinians are not struggling for a 'state' but for freedom, liberation and equality, just like we were struggling for freedom in South Africa."

—Nelson Mandela

It's easy in America to forget that there are real people dying on both sides and that Palestinians have legitimate concerns about the quality of their lives

mainstream than any Palestinian perspectives could ever hope to be for several reasons. This has nothing to do with Zionism, or some stupid Jewish conspiracy theory, but with some simple descriptions of American culture. First, I think it is obvious that the Jewish population is far more numerous and far more powerful than the Arab or Palestinian population is in this country. This is not a good or bad thing, but a simple fact that Jews have succeeded far greater (and for much longer) in this country than other minorities. The divestment plan mentioned above succeeded against South Africa because we have a large and well-organized African-American minority in this country, not because it was the "right" thing to do. Just the same, the divestment plan against Israel will not succeed because of the Jewish influence in America.

Second, "Palestinian" is a racial identity, but "Jewish" is an amorphous term that is abused at will by various groups. Many people see it as a religious description, but such a universal identity created by a religion provides no basis for uniting against a

perspective. Of course, the intifada succeeded to a limited extent, but as the civil rights demonstrations in our country and numerous other human rights milestones have shown, nonviolence is the only way for a minority to correct the imbalance of power and to spread universalizing notions of equality in order to achieve liberation.

Fourth, it is easy to support Israel in America because those who do have the luxury of sitting back and saying "oh, look...isn't that sad that there's a war going on way over there." In fact, many Jews in this country are more ultra-nationalist than Jews in Israel. It's easy in America to forget that there are real people dying on both sides, that Palestinians have legitimate concerns about the quality of their lives, and that peace will not come until the Palestinian population is satisfied.

Lastly, our very discourse of "statehood" perpetuates the absolute suppression of any Palestinian perspective to speak of. It is extremely important to see this factor because I believe that it plays a larger role in how Americans perceive the Middle Eastern

Steve Spurrier Interview (from page 1)

Continued from p. 1

who are obviously not as big a powerhouse but give you scare like they have in years past?

SS: We actually say about the same thing no matter who we are playing. If it's a little bit bigger game, the players will naturally understand that and they naturally get a little bit more emotionally charged up, but still as coaches, we emphasize all them...Football is a sport that you train year around. Every player and coach should be really, really excited and prepared to play all 12 or 13 games. We pretty much say the same thing whether it's Tennessee, Louisiana-Lafayette or whoever we are playing. One of my good friends says that we have not really ever lost a game to a team that was not ranked and he said the reason your record is so good is that you don't lose to those teams that you are supposed to beat. There is something to be said about that. You take everyone seriously and respect them all. Fear no one, but respect them all and that's what we try to do.

BR: How have you enjoyed your halftime interview with Jill Arrington? who we are all big fans of?

SS: You know it is funny. Before the Tennessee game this year was the first game she did of our games this past year and I think she had six of our games. We won everyone of them by the way. She reminded me late in the year, "Coach, I am your good luck charm. I said well, if you are, keep coming. But anyway, I'll tell you what was funny. My administrative assistant, he said, "Have you seen that good-looking reporter that's going to interview you at halftime, Jill Arrington?" "Well, I saw her briefly out there. I don't know if she was all that good-looking was she? I mean she was a nice-looking gal and everything." What happened, my mind was on the game and I didn't get a good look at her. Then after the game I said, "You are right about that halftime reporter. She's a good-looking gal. Nice girl too though. I think she does a pretty good job."

BR: Every time there is an NFL coaching vacancy. It seems like your name comes up. Is there anything like a situation

Butch Davis went through in Miami that could make you want to leave Florida?

SS: I seriously doubt it. But to me in life you always sort of keep your options open in case there are some problems where you are. You know, when you have a job, your boss—you do the best for your boss and in return he tries to keep you there if you are doing a good job. So, I just think it is smart to always



Coach Spurrier thinks college football should switch to a playoff to decide its champion

have a little crack in the door. It just makes communications better between the coach and the athletic director and the president as long as there is a chance that one may leave. As you know, it is a free country, but I seriously doubt that I'll ever leave Florida because it is one of the best coaching jobs in America. I've lived in the state of Florida where I went to college at the University. I've got three of my children living in Florida and about four of my seven grandchildren live there. And we've all, all of my family, I think about six of us, my son-in-laws, my daughters, my son, my wife and I, so that's seven of us, that have graduated from the University of Florida. So my roots are a lot deeper than say a guy like Butch Davis who I think he went to Arkansas. He's just there as a coach. That's one reason most all of those Miami coaches leave.

BR: The visor. When did you start wearing it? And how did wearing it become a tradition?

SS: I wore a visor a lot on the golf course and obviously it is very hot in Florida and I am lucky enough to have hair, so it is a lot cooler to wear a visor. I actually

didn't wear one much at Duke University when I coached there. When I went down to Florida, I started wearing one and I've been wearing one every since. You know a lot of coaches wear visors on the golf course. Some of them are starting to wear them during ball games now. I know Bobby Stoops, who worked for me there for three years, wears one every chance he gets also.

BR: Alright. Back in 1997 there was a big controversy over the Heisman Trophy in Tennessee between Peyton Manning and Charles Woodson. If you had to decide who it would go to, who would you have given it to?

SS: Oh, I thought Peyton should have won it. Yeah, I definitely thought he should have won it that year, especially all he had done through his career there. Just like anything else in life, when voting becomes involved, it becomes some kind of popularity contest. For some reason, it seemed like all the Midwest writers seemed to have gotten together and decided they wanted the player from Michigan, Woodson, to win the trophy...and to me that's another reason college football is sort of an unfair sport, because you depend on voting to see who the champion is or who gets the last game and all that kind of stuff. We should have a playoff. We should have a playoff in college football to determine our champion, but we don't do it that way.

BR: What is the most surprising thing someone might now know about you?

SS: Oh, Oh, I think almost all of us in the public eye there's not too many secrets about you, you know. My life is pretty well chronicled, pretty well written. But I thoroughly enjoy what I do. I enjoy competing not only during football season, but in the off season. Golf is what I attempt to do and compared to most football coaches, I am a real good golfer. And compared to guys who can really play golf, I am a big stiff. It's all relative.

BR: What do you want your players to value most of their college experience?

SS: We want our players to leave the University of Florida with a degree and hopefully as many championship rings as they can earn during their playing days. You've got four to five years of college life and the experiences you have, the memories you have will last a lifetime. So, hopefully we can show them the importance of those four years of eligibility and get their degree which will put them in position to get a good job, live comfortably and hopefully earn championship rings that they can share with their teammates the

rest of their lives.

BR: Based on what you have seen while recruiting Ingle of MBA's football program, do you think they could have success if they played in Florida with the grade? high schools down there?

SS: Oh, certainly. Certainly. The level of play here is very similar to Florida. Sometimes the State of Florida gets overrated a little bit about their high schools because our state universities are doing so well. But if you look at Florida, Florida State and Miami, we have a lot of out of state players. All three schools are actually getting more and more out of state players as all three schools have been very good over the last five or six years.

BR: Anymore? I've got one last question. When the games are over and the decades pass by, what do you want all of America to think when they hear the words Steve Spurrier?

SS: I would think that hopefully when my coaching days are over that they would say, that guy loved to compete, he won and did it fairly. You won't ever hear of him breaking any rules. He got the most out of his players. His players enjoyed playing for him. Hopefully his players will be successful 10, 20 years after they



Coach Spurrier thinks CBS sideline reporter Jill Arrington is a "good looking gal"

played at Florida, after they've played under Steve Spurrier, that they went on to have good jobs, good families and they love their university. I think that is something that all coaches should really strive to get their players to really want to come back to campus after they leave and they will do that if they've had a wonderful experience during their college days.

Pitt and Roberts Shine, as They Star in *The Mexican*

by Will Choppin

If your life were as fruitful as mine, you would find yourself glued to the television Saturday night from six o'clock until thirty minutes later, watching Ebert and Roeper and the Movies. If you had been watching this show on the third day of March, you may have chuckled during their analysis of *The Mexican*. When Young Roeper begins his criticism, we see a new form of ludicrous. He complains, like a little schoolgirl with a skinned knee, about the movie because we finally see two of the most wanted stars, Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts, starring together in a movie, and it chaps his rear that they aren't together in the movie for any more than twenty percent of the time. So, here is Mr. Roeper's ideal plot of *The Mexican*.

Fade in. A guy and a girl get in a fight. Because of previously inevitable events, they have to do something together. They bicker. They give each other silent treatments. They bicker. Something happens where they all the sudden love each other again. Fade to credits.

I think I've seen this one before... many, many times, where the young couple's bickering ad nauseam becomes too much, and so the movie is horrible! *The Mexican* doesn't rape its viewers of their decency in such a way. Sure, they get into a fight, and they do get back together at the end, but it's what's in the middle of the movie that gives its viewers something new and fresh, and a not so bad flick.

Pitt's character, who is trying to beat off his past life of crime, sadly must face it once more. He must make a trip to Mexico to pick up a gun called *The Mexican* and bring it back. The news of this trip sparks the predicament between Pitt's character Jerry and Julia

Roberts' character Samantha, who were supposed to spend a romantic get away in Vegas. And so they go their separate ways, having solved nothing, except to break up.

The fun starts when Samantha is attacked while on her trip to Vegas by a formidable mobster, played by James Gandolfini. He wants what everyone wants, the sacred Gun that Jerry is at present seeking. Since he's a bit too lazy and a bit too fat to travel on his own to Mexico to intercept the gun, he takes the second most logical step and kidnaps

Jerry's girlfriend. He joins her on the trip up to Vegas, and the movie all the sudden becomes delectable, with dialogue between these two characters worthy of Sir John Hughes. Samantha can't get over the fact how charming and sensitive this huge mobster is. She also can't get over the fact that he's gay, and, for this reason I suppose, she takes solace in this character. Their conversations,

whether passing the time in the car or having dinner talk at a diner, make the movie worthwhile. Instead of having to endure Jerry and Samantha argue the whole movie, we get Samantha talking about her problems to Gandolfini's character, Leroy, and then him giving Samantha advice about her various problems with Jerry. The movie works very well this way. Leroy and Samantha make all the other dumb comedy in the movie able to be overlooked.

The movie also boasts a very surprising appearance at the end by a very prestigious actor. It can't be typically classified as a cameo, yet putting this actor's name in the opening credits would be a mistake, because he did for *The Mexican* what Kevin Spacey did for *Se7en*. Having been convinced enough, and in the words of Brad Pitt's character, "...drive el trucko to the next towno" and see this movie.



Although spending little time together in the flick, Julia Roberts and Brad Pitt come together for a fabulous film.

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Big Red Basketball Captures State Crown

by Sumeet Vakuinth

For the third time in four years, MBA won the gold ball. There were no superstars scoring most of the points like in 1998 or 2000; all seven seniors were vital in this year's state tournament. Led by team captains Matthew Bills and Steve Ingram, the Big Red finished the season with a 20-10 record, with half of the losses coming when the team was without one or more of its seniors.

After dominating Chatanooga Notre Dame in the second half of an 82-55 sectional tournament game, MBA earned a spot in the State Tournament semifinals against McCallie. The Big Red started out uninspired as McCallie opened up a 14-2 lead into the first quarter. MBA answered with an 8-0 to end the quarter, highlighted by an Ingle Martin jumper before the buzzer.

In the second quarter, MBA tied the game at 14 with Moses Osemwegie's one handed cram and took the lead with an Evan Abraham's three pointer 17-16. With two more key three pointers by Matthew Bills, who had been saving his shot for the state tournament all year, the Big Red took a 28-24 lead into halftime.

The third quarter, however, turned out to be worse than the first.

The Blue Tornado held MBA to 5 points as the Big Red got only a Dominique Morris jumper and a Matthew Bills 3 pointer to McCallie's 20 third quarter points.

Down 44-33 going into the fourth quarter, the Big Red needed a

again answered as a jumper by Osemwegie and another three by Ingram cleared the way for Morris to score five straight points to give MBA a 52-51 lead with 1:25. Free throws by Carter Henderson and Morris and Steve Ingram's buzzer beating lay-up finalized

of Ryan's two best players, Michael Hite and Billy May. MBA set the tone on the first play of the game, as the pressure caused May to turn the ball over. MBA then raced out to an 8-0 lead with scoring by Osemwegie and Morris. Ryan answered, however, as they made the game close by the end of the quarter with a buzzer-beating half-court three by Billy May. Ryan tied the game at 18 on a jumper by Michael Hite, but MBA quickly answered on the next possession as Evan Abrahams hit a three pointer to give MBA the lead for good.

At halftime, the Big Red led 34-23, and though Ryan cut the lead to 39-37 with a Michael Hite midway into the third quarter, they could never take advantage of the opportunities presented to them by the Big Red's poor free throw shooting. MBA's trapping defense put the pressure on Ryan's role players to make big plays, and this gamble worked to perfection as the Big Red won by a deceptively close final score of 67-62.

Carter Henderson led MBA with 15 points while Dominique Morris and Moses Osemwegie had 13, and Ingle Martin, who always plays well against Ryan, scored 12. Dominique Morris and Steve Ingram were named to the All-Tournament team while Moses Osemwegie was named its Most Valuable Player as he had two double-doubles in the state tournament games.



The Big Red basketball team and Charlie Nelson celebrates its 2001 Division II state title.

big run to avoid elimination. In the fourth quarter, a bucket by Morris, a free throw by Osemwegie, and two three pointers by Steve Ingram, brought MBA within 4 points with 5:39 remaining, but McCallie quickly scored 5 points to push the lead back to nine. The Big Red's Osemwegie, Ingram, and Morris

MBA's 58-51 win and berth into the championship game versus the Evil Empire of Father Ryan on St. Patrick's Day.

There was no luck for the Irish, however, as they were not prepared for the full court trapping defense the Big Red used to get the ball out of the hands

Dale Earnhardt Leaves an Impressive Legacy

by Jack Turner

If you were to watch a NASCAR race twenty years ago, you would have seen a completely different sport. Today NASCAR has the second highest television ratings and has more attendance each year than any other sporting event. Six and a half million people flocked to twenty three NASCAR race tracks and bought 1.26 billion dollars worth of merchandise. And for those that think that NASCAR is an event only for rednecks who live in trailer parks, put these numbers into consideration: 40% of fans are women, 64% have attended college or beyond, 70% have internet access, 41% earn more than \$50,000 dollars, and 62% do not live in the south.

How has NASCAR broadened its horizon so much and become so popular?

Many people say the success is due to one man, the Intimidator, Dale Earnhardt. Dale Earnhardt was the father of stock car racing. At the age of forty nine Earnhardt had not only become one of the most successful racers of all time, but also had been a leader in the business of owning other cars and racing teams. After twenty five seasons of racing, Earnhardt had won a total of seventy six races and seven Winston Cup Championships. Earnhardt was notorious for his



The Intimidator and his million-dollar smile.

hard nosed style of racing. Often times, Earnhardt would hit opponents from behind to make a clear path towards the finish line. If another driver did this to

Earnhardt they would be asking for a fight, but other drivers just left Earnhardt alone in the winner circle after being bumped into the wall. Earnhardt had a following that gave Christianity a run for its money.

Over half of all NASCAR sales were from Earnhardt items. People loved his rebel like attitude in his early years

of racing and his more melow attitude recently. Earnhardt always showed both sides of his character. People always loved when Earnhardt had something to say about a subject that had some controversy to it. When NASCAR wanted to put restrictor plates on engines that would slow down cars significantly, Earnhardt said, "If you're not a race car driver, stay the hell at home. Don't come here and grumble about going too fast. Get the hell out of the race car if you've got feathers on your legs and butt."

This type of ferocity that would scare a pit bull is what lured people to NASCAR. People love NASCAR because it is everyone's fantasy to drive fast and not have to worry about getting caught. Earnhardt put us in the driver seat enabling us to

Continued on p. 8

Big Red Wrestling Team Finishes Strong Season, Shows Promise for Next Year

by Phillip Simpson

The MBA wrestling team has shown to be a young and promising team this year. With 8 out of the 14 starters returning from last year MBA would have to fill the remaining spots with young inexperienced wrestlers. There were doubts at the beginning of the year as to whether this team would be capable of hanging with the big dogs.

The team answered this

question with a

The match showed signs of a more experienced MBA team as they eventually destroyed the Blue Tornado's to claim the third place honors.

The next weekend the Big Red wrestling team had their final chance to upset the two powers Baylor and Ryan and claim a state championship of their own. The whole weekend, the Big Red wrestlers were faced with many opportunities that

much improvement throughout the year due to all the hard work and the great coaches. The wrestlers would like to thank not only the best coaches in the state but all the fans that cheered these wrestlers on. Special thanks to Bob

Fresinger the state's best trainer. The future Big Red wrestling team looks very promising and exciting.



Phillip Simpson celebrates his fourth straight state title

question when they went up to Ohio where they defeated a dominating Harrison team in an exciting match. This set the tone for the young team. After a disappointing finish at the McCallie Tournament and the MBA Duals the big red team practiced hard over Christmas break. The strong second finish at the Father Ryan Invitational showed signs of a more experienced and mature MBA team.

The MBA team blew through the rest of the regular season. In the regional duals the Big Red team couldn't upset the mighty Irish finishing 2nd, earning themselves a spot in the State Duals the following weekend. Once again the young team couldn't defeat a more experienced Baylor team.

After the hard fight against the eventual State Champions MBA had to gather themselves together to wrestle a challenging Christian Brothers team. MBA showed signs of true character by defeating CBS in a grueling match. This win placed the team in the consolation finals against

could help their team come out on top. However, after many hard fought matches, others began to see that it just wasn't their weekend. After trying to make a comeback on McCallie in the consolation, which wasn't enough,

MBA placed 11 of the 14 wrestlers. The placers were: 6th- Andrew Coulton; 5th- Frank Heron, Blake Luttrell and Will Howorth; 4th- William Simpson, Blake Goodman, Heath Edwards, and Nathan Burkhalter; 3rd- Logan Hughes; 1st- Phillip and Patrick Simpson.

The big red wrestling team finished off their year with a fourth place finish in the State Tournament behind the powers Baylor, Ryan, and McCallie. They were led by Seniors Logan Hughes, Phillip Simpson, Nathan Burkhalter, Juniors Patrick Simpson, Will Howorth, Heath Edwards, Mario McMahon; Sophomores Frank Heron, Blake Luttrell, Blake Goodman, Ian Thornhill; Freshmen James Dade and Will Simpson.

These wrestlers showed

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The Bell Ringer is a nonprofit newspaper operated and published by and for the students of Montgomery Bell Academy. Views expressed in **The Bell Ringer** do not necessarily represent those held by the staff or school.

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The staff of **The Bell Ringer** prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. EverReady Printing in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

Cafeteria Saga Continues to Grow Worse

Albert Marks

I remember it like it was yesterday, March 19, 2000: The sun was shining brightly and there wasn't a cloud in the sky. It was one of those days that reminds me of apple pie..... warm apple pie (YUM!) However, there was a special feeling of excitement in the air atop the summit at 4001 Harding Road, for on that day, every member of the student body knew they had changed history. March 19, 2000 is the day when Mr. Gioia announced to the school that the lunch service would be replaced at the end of the summer. At that time, the Sodexo Marriot Corp. was in charge of the lunch service, but the extreme prices on less than quality food, drove each student into a panic phase. Rioting and protests erupted in the Ball Quadrangle. Petitions were sent out and signed by every student at MBA. Our demands were simple,

change the lunch service, or we strike (like that is actually possible). However, Mr. Gioia could not find a simple answer to the conflict. There was no possible way to find an agreement between Sodexo and the student body, so one of the two had to go, so Mr. Gioia decided to keep the lunch service and get rid of the students. After several complaints, Mr. Gioia was forced to reverse his decision. Goodbye Sodexo, Hello S.A.G.E. Lunch Services.

S.A.G.E took a different approach to serving lunch on the hill. The new lunch service was simple: Students pay over \$300 a semester to eat. Although the price was not pleasing to many parent's ears, S.A.G.E saved the school's reputation with four simple words: "ALL YOU CAN EAT". No more \$2.50 brownies, and no more lunch staff saying "You have two A's, but you can only have one A, two B's, and a C." (To

those students unaware of the alphabet lunch system provided by Sodexo, an A was a main dish, a B was a side item, and a C was a drink.)

Anyway, as the unforgettable summer of 2000 ended on September 1st, students, both old and new, returned to Montgomery Bell Academy with high hopes that this year would be the best year of all, and it very well COULD have been. Students suffered through the first three periods, waiting anxiously to see the lunchroom, which had been re-modeled to accommodate S.A.G.E. Students from every grade marched into Frist Hall in amazement, for S.A.G.E lived up to its hype. An eighth grader remarked, as he wiped tears from his eyes, "This is the happiest day of my life. S.A.G.E. has taken the MBA lunch service to new heights. THEY EVEN HAVE A SANDWICH BAR!!!!!! EVEN ENSWORTH DOESN'T HAVE A

SANDWICH BAR!!!!!!"

This was September 1, 2000, and as we all know, nothing is ever the way it seems. Now it is May 2001, and as the flowers bloom again in Music City, the lunch service once again has failed to meet the standards of the student body.

Students have begun to protest the conditions of the lunchroom. When the school promises "all you can eat", the expectation is that there will be enough food for everyone.

However, from the many opinions of those in sixth period lunch, the slogan should be "all you can eat, if there is anything left." Sixth period gets the official S.A.G.E. "shaft" every day. We are forced to wait in the hallway like cattle, for at least twenty minutes, just so they can replenish the lunchroom. However, many times the staff has run out of the original main course, so a

Dale Earnhardt Continued from p. 6

pursue our fantasies and not going over the speed limit by 120 mph. Earnhardt truly lived life in the fast lane.

It all came to an end on February 18 during NASCAR's prized race, the Daytona 500. During an exciting race with over fifty lead changes, the winner would be determined on who would fight hardest on the last lap.

As Earnhardt came down the last turn on the last lap he was bumped by Sterling Marlin pushing him straight into the wall. The wreck did not look

very dramatic compared to the previous wreck that consisted of nineteen cars and Tony Stewart's car flipping over the entire track and ripping the hoos off another car. Something went wrong and Earnhardt died on impact.

No one will truly ever know what really happened because the morgue photos of Earnhardt were permanently sealed. NASCAR lost their prized possession and as we have heard before on the hill's number 3 on the track, number 1 in our hearts.

The Cafeteria Situation: Negotiations in Progress

Despite popular belief, the cafeteria-people do want us to be happy with our food service. In order to help them help us, we need to provide them with constructive ideas. Common phrases to avoid are "this food << insert favorite expletive >>". Better feedback might include ways for the cafeteria to provide food, types of food that the students do/don't like, etc.

If you can contribute some constructive thought, please write down this information and give it to me or email it to me at daltontdfranklin@hotmail.com.

Thanks.

Dalton Franklin

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Cafeteria Saga (from p. 8)

side item (like saurkraut and goulash) is replaced as the main meal. My favorite part is that the staff feels that it is necessary to use only one of the two serving carts during sixth period. I think that the lunch servers are thinking to themselves, "Let's make it more difficult for the students to get food by only using one cart. Then we can stay at school and whine a little bit more about our jobs."

That's a great idea, but not as great as putting the chocolate pudding on the salad bar right next to the eggs and bacon bits, although pudding belongs on the dessert "cart". But everyone loves pudding with eggs and bacon in them."

Sometimes there is food left, but it is just leftovers from the day before. Lunch menus have become repetitive, and students are fed up with having the same thing everyday. It is now expected from all students that hot dogs will be served at least three times a week, but in different forms (regular hot dogs, beanie weenie's, and even corn dog nuggets). S.A.G.E., you had the chance to shine, but your failure to impress the student body had turned out to be much worse than USN's attempt to play football and wrestling. (I would say soccer too, but we know what happened with that situation, right Charmock).

I think I have found the problem to the woes of Montgomery Bell Academy's food services. The students fought for so long last year to get rid of Sodexo, but S.A.G.E. has not proved any better.

Let me pose a question to every student, faculty, and staff member at MBA. Why did we find a new lunch service, if all that was going to change was the food? Why re-hire the staff from last year? Why re-hire the same staff that got a 56 on their health report? This lunch staff couldn't provide us with food and service with Sodexo in 2000, why do you think that they will change with S.A.G.E. in 2001? This is my question MBA, now give me some answers and show me some results!!!!

Letters to the Editor: Mr. De Young's Speech on Christianity

Assembly Was not the Place for Mr. De Young's Message

FCA, MBA's Fellowship of Christian Athletes, meets almost every week at 7:00 in the Roberts Room on the MBA campus. If one chooses to attend, which I have on multiple occasions, he will experience a very special, honest time. During the meeting, students reflect upon their relationship with and devotion to God, and occasionally an especially convicted individual will share their very personal religious testimony. Attending this meeting, almost ceremony, can be very rewarding. However, FCA is not for everyone, and that is why it is optional.

Contrarily, our weekly assemblies are not optional, they are mandatory. In one such required assembly on March 12, a program celebrating religious diversity was presented. The program was designed, if I'm not mistaken, to educate students about various religions, not to convert them. Two of the presentations, those on Judaism and B'hai, did what they set out to do; educate and enlighten. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Mr. De Young's speech concerning Christianity. Basically what was said was that if you don't believe in the Christian beliefs you are wrong, and that you need to start believing the Christian way. Despite the fact that this message was conveyed very eloquently by means of the movie *The Matrix*, I feel that it is very bullying and also contrary to principles of tolerance central to the teachings of Jesus Christ, the major figure in Christianity.

Also, the speech did not teach me anything about Christianity as a religion, except that it is the only "true" religion. The simple fact is that the truth to Christianity, or any religion for that matter, is simply up to the believer, or in some cases, non-believer, and they may or may not find degrees of truth in the religion. In actuality, Christianity is no more "true" than Judaism, Islam, or any number of other religions throughout the world. Now, don't get me wrong, I have nothing against one's spirituality. In fact, I support the expression of one's beliefs, but only in the right forum. I feel that an assembly celebrating cultural and religious diversity is the wrong

place for religious recruitment speeches to be heard.

Ted Tywang

Mr. De Young's Speech Was a Failure in Many Ways

I am writing this letter in regards to the diversity assembly which occurred on March 12th. To begin, the only religion I learned about was B'Hai, but that is only because the utterance of that religion has never settled upon my ears. Also, the Rabbi's speech was at least semi-interesting and informative. The speech which really disappointed me, though, was Mr. DeYoung's speech on Christianity. I'm sure he had good intentions, but his speech was camed dog food.

The speech wasn't even informative for someone who has lived on Mars in a cave with their eyes shut and covering their ears for the past ninety years. I could turn on the Christianity Channel and hear the same thing 24 hours a day, but I don't. And there's a reason I don't: it's always the same. Every speech is the same except with the words switched around. All they need now is to shave their heads and open their eyes really wide. Sure I'm not the only one who noticed, but Mr. DeYoung was the only evangelist, and even though I am a Christian, I must say that evangelism is one of the most annoying practices in today's world. If all he was going to do was evangelize, then that assembly should have been mandatory.

If Mr. DeYoung had made that speech in a public school, he would have been fired. Did he think that he could convert some people from his speech? Every person there was either a solid Christian or a solid non-Christian. To sum up, his speech was pointless, uninformative, boring, and quite agitating. If assemblies continue on like this, I may be forced to write more letters.

Alex Shofner

Fundamental Rule of

Christianity is The One True Path

I am very pleased that my speech caused students to react and respond. This was its purpose. I wanted everyone to examine closely his religious beliefs.

Mr. Tywang makes a valid argument against giving evangelical speeches during religious diversity week. He states that the program's purpose was "to educate students about various religions, not to convert them." While I could have given such a speech, it would have been extremely dull, since the main beliefs of Christianity are familiar to almost everyone. Instead, I chose to focus on what makes Christianity different from other religions. Christianity does claim that it alone has the correct view of the world, it alone is the true religion. This is the main reason why Christians have been persecuted throughout history. It is a very offensive doctrine to those who, like Mr. Tywang, believe that the truth of any religion "is simply up to the believer." This was why I chose the red pill from the matrix. There is only one way to the truth, all other roads lead to a false view of reality. Second, I wanted to emphasize, in light of recent instances on campus of intolerant treatment of others, that Christianity demands that its followers treat others with kindness, respect and love. Third, despite Mr. Shofner's personal preferences, Christianity demands that this good news be shared with others. My encouragement that all should embrace Christianity not only enabled me to practice what I believe, but to demonstrate this belief to others.

Dennis De Young

Letters to the *Bell Ringer* are encouraged and can be sent to Steven Syverud, Michael Pass, or sent to our email address, bringer@montgomerybell.com. These letters must be signed, however, names will be withheld upon request. Letters may be edited for length.

Warning: Remember the Ides of March

by Hunter Cummings

Yes, the old Roman saying still applies today. Especially in this academia decorated with Roman architecture and that still thinks of Latin as a language that is alive and well.

Every year in March students and faculty alike are treated to a short and sweet Spring Break. Spring Break is like the afterlife that follows the brutal death of many a brave should the week before. Teachers cram in tests and quizzes even in the last hour of the last day of the last week before Spring Break. Not only do the students sleep and energy levels suffer, but the faculty curses itself with numerous and lengthy works to grade over this so very aptly named break.

However something went wrong this year when the Ides of March came a week early on the eighth. The days preceding this cursed day were

filled with obsessive assemblies and meetings of classes, faculty, coaches, and discipline advisors that were only omens to the horror's to come. To everyone's dismay all the teachers tried to be nice and schedule their tests and assignments for the eighth, which was exactly one week before the Thursday of Spring Break. To make matters worse for sophomores, the dreaded research paper was also due the eighth.

The scene in the cafeteria 5th period was a sure sign something had warped the cosmos. I am still haunted by scenes of Yolanda screaming and waving her fingers saying, "Back up!". in an attempt to save MBA from total destruction, the powers at be and Mr. G scheduled the National Latin Exam for the real Ides of March in a valiant attempt to appease the Latin gods.

MBA barely survived this catastrophe. So next year, students and faculty, remember the Ides of March.

MBA Should Get Rid of Demerit System

by Chris Smith

MBA's demerit system is an old-fashioned form of punishment which is not necessary in the institution today. In the current order, if a student arrives one minute late to class, he could potentially be penalized one hour of his life. This hour could easily be avoided if the teacher simply gave a word of warning and reprimanded the student.

The mundane practice of organized punishment is inconsistent with the principles of an enlightened education. It appears as though the demerit system is only practiced and enforced today because teachers and administrative figures fear that if they are not strict enough on the students the campus would be chaotic. Students would not be disruptive without the threat of demerits, they would be comfortable and relaxed in a pleasurable learning environment.

As a greater emphasis is placed on order and the necessity of demerits by teachers, the more disgruntled and angry the students become. This cycle is detrimental to healthy learning. Many times demerits are given for small worthless "offenses" and serve only to lessen the student's respect and appreciation of the teacher who gave the demerits. When a teacher gives a

student demerits, the student's relationship with the teacher is immediately transformed into a ruler-subject relationship as opposed to a friendship. The MBA teachers who are truly friends with students are those teachers who give less demerits. Why should MBA enforce a system which so obviously destroys the possibility of a healthy relationship between teachers and students? Such an obvious contradiction of MBA's principles should not be tolerated.

This system of demerits produces only unhappiness in the students and a genuine lack of respect for order and those who enforce it. Demerits serve to punish. In MBA today, Punishment appears to be some sort of a twisted priority. An individual has an innate right to pursue happiness. Demerits are an obvious obstruction in this quest. How can a school that teaches us the genius of Thoreau and Emerson enforce such a hollow practice? Only if every high school in this country had the demerit system would I consider to believe it had any worth. And because every high school does not we can conclude it is not necessary. Is there no logical alternative? It is time that MBA dismissed the demerit system for the sake of reason.

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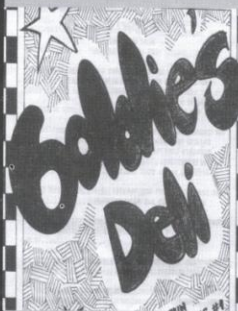


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